currents

what's happening at the bridge

Our *mission* at the bridge Presbyterian Church is to help people
Connect with God's people in your life
Connect with God's purpose in your life
Connect with God's passion for your life

Ways to Connect with God's *mission* at the bridge

Thu. Feb. 20 - 1:00 pm - Chrismon Meeting
Fri. Feb. 21 - 10:00 - Visitation followed by
11:30 Memorial Service for Ann Batten
Wed. Feb 26 - 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service
Fri. Feb. 28 - 10:00 am - Book Club Small Group
Mon. Mar. 2 - 2:00 pm - Leland House Worship

Weekly Ministry Team Meetings

Tue. Feb. 25 - 3:30 pm - Children and Family Team
Wed. Feb. 26 - 10:30 am - Small Group Team
Wed. Feb. 26 - 2:00 pm - Generosity Team
Wed. Feb 26 - 3:00 pm - Prayer and Care

Weekly Small Groups

Mon. - 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts and SOS (Siblings of Scouts)
Tue. - 10:00 am - Sleep Mats for Homeless
Tue. - 7:00 pm - Bridge to Serenity (Al-Anon Group) Meeting
Tue. - 7:00 pm - New Attitudes (A.A. Group) Meeting
Wed. - 8:00 am - Men's Prayer and Share Small Group
Sat. - 7:00 pm - New Attitudes (A.A. Group) Meeting
Sun. - 7:30 pm - There is a Solution (A.A. Group) Meeting

The bridge Core Habits

What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like at ***the bridge****? Our core habits answer that question. Our core habits are:*

Pray daily - Worship together weekly - Welcome & Include everyone - Belong to a small group - Give generously - Cherish children - Forgive & reconcile continually - Serve our community

Worship Weekly

Date: February 23, 2020
Title: Admirers and Followers
Text: John 15: 1 – 5, I John 4: 7 - 13
Questions:

- What's the difference between admiring someone and following someone? Do you consider yourself an admirer or a follower of Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said in John 15: "Abide in me as I abide in you?"
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said in John 15: "Those who abide in me will bear much fruit?"

bridge "Notes" from Patty

I'm on vacation in Boston this week with my grands and my family. I'm missing you though and I look forward to being back at the bridge. Here is a great song just for you!!

https://youtu.be/GTkYZUZ4B2s

Pray Daily

- Pete Caillaud - back Surgery
- Diane Jobson - knee Surgery
- Jim Graham - health issues
- Dave Maher - health issues
- Linda Knerr - health issues
- Bunny Macon in the death of her cousin, Dwight
- Virgil Batten and family in the death of his wife, Ann

New Sermon Series: The Gospel of Mark: Unanticipated Good News

Author N. T. Wright wrote: “News is an announcement that something significant has happened. And good news is what Jesus and his first followers were all about.”

Just what is this good news that Mark proclaimed to the earliest, and often persecuted, Christian communities? Mark wrote his gospel to struggling believers who were asking themselves: Why doesn’t God just come down from heaven and make things better? Why are there not more miracles? Why did Jesus teach using such confusing parables? Where’s the promised regime change? Is this really good news?

Mark’s answer was that the risen Jesus works in the world in unanticipated, surprising, sometimes hidden ways. And the path to discovering these unanticipated, surprising ways of Jesus is by putting one’s total trust in this miracle working, parable teaching Messiah. This Lenten season we will look at the unanticipated good news of Jesus in the gospel of Mark

Sign up for the sermon-based small groups begins this Sunday on the signup table.

Available Sermon Based Small Groups - Beginning March 1st

Sun. -11:45 am - Warnock Room at the bridge - Facilitators - Jerry and Teresa Pierce

Mon.- 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Cathy Purves

Tue. - 4:00 pm - Room A at the bridge - Facilitators - Tom and Greer Broadwater

Tue. - 6:30 pm - at 242 Windchime Way (Mag. Greens) - Facilitator - Barbara Hedin

Wed.- 7:00 pm - at 1004 Rosea Ct. (Mag. Greens) Co-Facilitators Ruth Hepner/Fran Rumpf

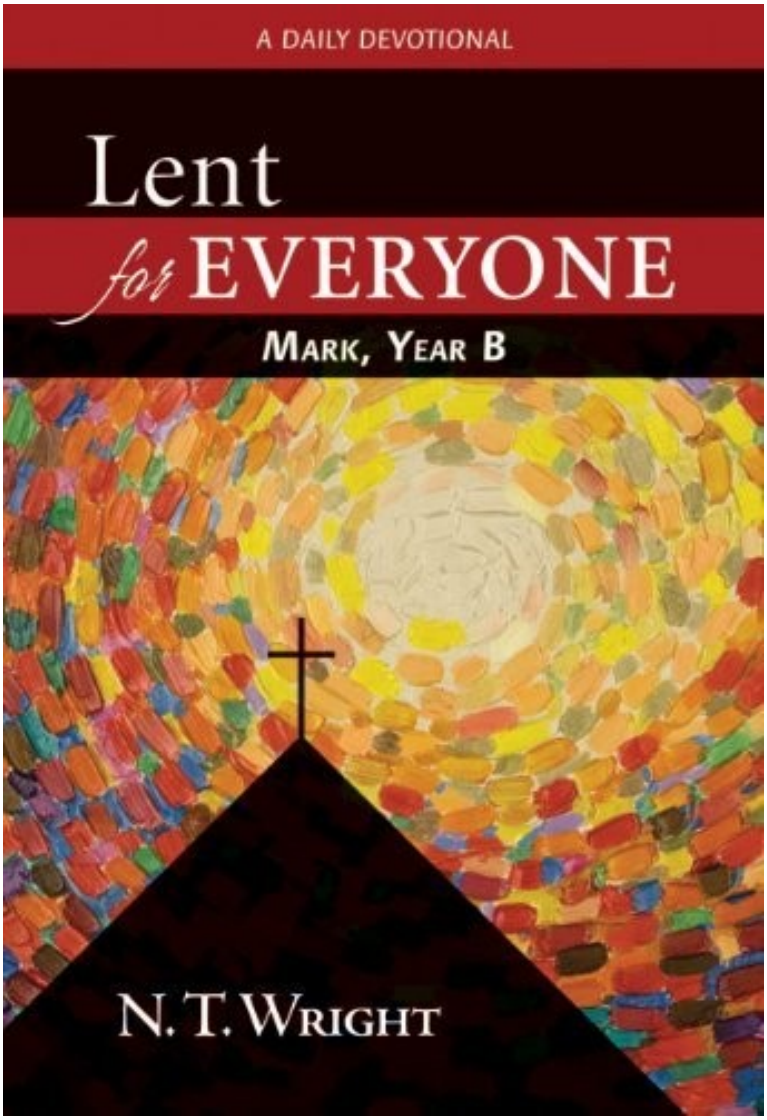
Thu. 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Dr. Bob Knerr

Thu. - 6:30 pm - 2179 Talmage Dr. (Br. Forest) - Co-Facilitator - Wanda Batten/Charlie Riddle

Lent Devotion

Dr. Doug is inviting everyone to purchase Mark for Lent by NT Wright - a daily devotional guide for Lent. The hope is that the entire bridge Presbyterian Church family will use this devotional to guide us through Lent.

The culmination of the sermon series will be a presentation of The Gospel of Mark, a one-man drama by acclaimed local actor Ashley Strand on Friday April 17th in worship center.



Welcome and Include Everyone

Servers for Sunday, Feb. 23rd

Ushers

9:00 am - Sandy and Peter Barrett, John Lapatchka, Sarah Noll

10:30 am – Betty Weihs, Charlynne Caillaud, Rich and Ruth Hepner

Greeters

9:00 am - Sandy and Peter Barrett

10:30 am - Rich and Ruth Hepner, Melanie Meade/Joe Amato

Connecting Partners

9:00 am - Twila Nahama

10:30 am - Joyce Roberts and Suzanne Veen

Give Generously

Last Sunday, Feb 16, 2020

Attendance	133 (4-week average)
Offering	$ 5,246 (4-week average)
Offering	$ 4,643 (8-week average)
Actual Attendance	115
Actual Offering	$ 4,711

Serve Our Community

Worship and Fellowship at Leland House

Our next visit with the residents of Leland House will be on Monday, March 2nd, at 2:00. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the Worship Center for volunteers. This will be a Communion service, so we need extra helpers. Come and enjoy this time of worship and fellowship with our friends at Leland House.

Disaster Recovery News

Save The Date: This is a reminder about the Brunswick County Hurricane EXPO on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at St. Brendan's Catholic Church on Rt. 17 in Shallotte. Volunteers from ***the bridge*** are going to be needed for greeters, parking attendants, and the un-met needs registration table. Look for a sign up sheet on one of the clip boards.

Fast Food Cards Needed for Clients of Streetreach

Brunswick County Streetreach is a 100% Volunteer Faith-Based Organization that provides assistance to the homeless in Brunswick County. Donna and Garry Phelps organize emergency food, clothing, shelter, resource assistance and fellowship to these individuals to meet their tangible needs, and create opportunities for empowerment. Many homeless seniors, veterans and families were displaced by storms and are still unable to find affordable housing. Currently, about 24 individuals per week are being housed at a motel on Oak Island during Streetreach's Winter Nights Program. Area Churches are assisting with meals and transportation, but fast food cards for $5 and $10 are needed when these individuals go to jobs.
If you feel called to help this Sustainable Mission Partner of the bridge, please put your

Are you interested in helping restore lives? Interested in Helping provide safe shelter & meals? Our Winter Night's Program will soon be winding down. Motel rates will be going up. With NO permanent shelter in Brunswick County during the spring & hot summer months those in a crisis have nowhere to turn. Most of our neighbors in need call Streetreach seeking to reside on property. Our property has a small house that individuals reside in, it is in desperate need of some repairs. They do not have the professional skills to assist with several jobs.

The house needs new floors in living room area, needs some painting, a new 21 inch cubic refrigerator, lattice put on back screen porch, ministry driveway & parking area needs 2 tons of gravel , some minor landscaping for prayer area, etc... We need volunteers to help with donation of items, construction and renovation so that we can provide a safe and welcoming environment for the families in our community struggling due to eviction, illness, and domestic violence. Not handy? We are also accepting much needed donations!
Mailing address is Streetreach PO Box 1331, Shallotte, NC 27459

We ask you to please pray about this matter. During the Winter Night's Program (November 1-March 1) all our volunteers are busy assisting homeless & we are unable to do repairs at that time. The demand for help is as high in other months as Winter. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

God Bless!
Donna Streetreach 910-269-3057

Belong to a Small Group

Our new Sermon Based Small Groups (SBSG) will begin the week of March 1st. The Series ***The Gospel of Mark : Unexpected Good News*** will run for 7 weeks; through the week of April 12th.

There will be a meeting for "training and information" for facilitators at 1:00 pm on Tuesday Feb 11th in Room A.

These are the current SBSG scheduled and sign up sheets will be on the table in the hall beginning Sunday Feb 9th.

Available Sermon Based Small Groups - Beginning March 1st

Sun. - 11:45 am - Warnock Room at the bridge - Facilitators - Jerry and Teresa Pierce

Mon. -10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Cathy Purves

Tue. - 4:00 pm - Room A at the bridge - Facilitators - Tom and Greer Broadwater

Tue. - 6:30 pm - at 242 Windchime Way (Mag. Greens) - Facilitator - Barbara Hedin

Wed.- 7:00 pm - at 1004 Rosea Ct. (Mag. Greens) Co-Facilitators Ruth Hepner/Fran Rumpf

Thu. 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Dr. Bob Knerr

Thu. - 6:30 pm - 2179 Talmage Dr. (Br. Forest) - Co-Facilitator - Wanda Batten/Charlie Riddle

Calling All Chrismon Crafters...

Did you admire our beautiful tree during the month of December? Do you want to know how to make the beaded ornaments, and help add to the beauty next year? No experience required! We will be meeting monthly, and our first meeting will be February 20th(3rd Thursday of the month)! We will meet from 1:00pm-4:00pm, in room 206. Please sign-up on the table outside the sanctuary, or email Lydia Stevens emteacher1@hotmail.com! Ask anyone who participated last year, this was such a fun time together!

Cherish Children

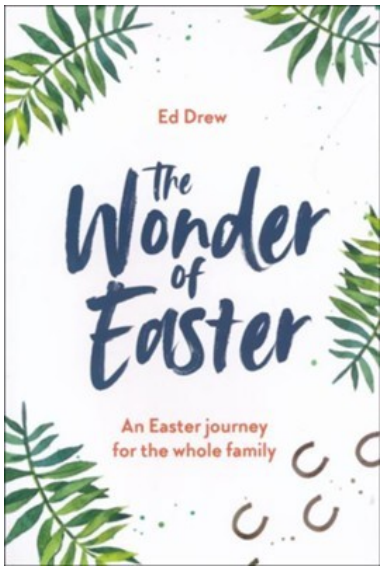
bridge Builders, our Sunday morning children's program, is located in suite 206 during the 10:30 service. A nursery for infants and toddlers is also provided during the 10:30 service

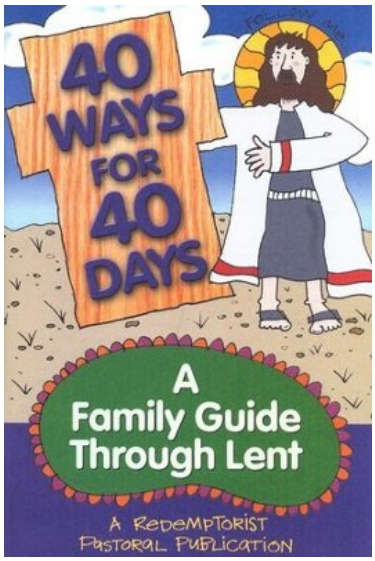
Sunday Feb. 23rd:

Teacher: Lydia Stevens

Toddlers/Babies: Matt Stevens and Jill Weldon

Lent Devotional Ideas for Families





Misc. Announcements

Celebrating Birthdays at the bridge

February

Patty Lyerly	17
Bob Dixon	18
Cathy Purves	18
Charlynne Caillaud	19
Wanda Batten	20

Session Meeting Summary, February 5, 2020 from Clerk of Session Susan Stanewick

The session met for its regular stated meeting. Doug Cushing opened with prayer and led devotion.
Minutes were approved.

Clerk's report: Ed Weihs volunteered to act as clerk at the March regular meeting. The statistics report for Presbytery was approved. The current roll of covenant partners is 144. A copy of the report is filed with the session minutes. Doug's recommended terms of call will be presented to congregation on Sunday February 12. Julie Shackleton will be attending the Presbytery meeting on March 7 in Pollocksville.

Pastor's report: Update on Lenten sermon series/sermon-based small groups: Mark-Unanticipated Good News to struggling believers; Doug is suggesting NTWright's book Mark for Lent as an accompaniment.

Bill Harwell will proceed immediately with annual pastor review. Luana Queen continues as part of the personnel team . The session voted unanimously to approve solicitation of congregation for sale of tickets to NC Rice Festival Gala and Reaves Chapel Sunday Gospel Brunch.

Session approved an invitation to Wallace PC delegation to visit the bridge during Lent...

Slides were shown exhibiting those that will be part of the congregational meeting. A copy will be filed in the session minutes book.

In the discernment process there were emerging themes as follows:

Growth of membership and bonds
Community outreach outside of the bridge
Family-sustain, support, grow
Connections within and without

These themes/goals are incorporated into one or two slides to be presented at the congregational meeting on Sunday February 9 following 10AM worship.
The session received new covenant partners, Rondia Burdine Fred Payne

Disaster Recovery Team: The hurricane expo-VOAD will take place in April at St. Francis Church on Rte. 17

Family Ministry's 2020 Dates are Sunday, August 16-Wednesday, August 19 from 5:30 - 8:00 Session approved the PCUSA confirmation curriculum, ***Big God, Big Questions***, for use with our first confirmation class.

Generosity: Received the audit report for 2018.Reviewed Doug's terms of call that will be presented to the congregation for approval. An update of the organizational chart was presented with a request to session that L/T Planning include personnel and be so noted on the chart. Unanimous approval.

Session Meeting Summary, February 5, 2020 (Cont.)

Hospitality: Hospitality team will hold a planning meeting for 2020 on Wed., February 12.
A cookbook is planned to have ready for advent gift giving. Proceeds to benefit church projects (TBD)
The kitchen has been reorganized. Plans are moving ahead for the June Presbytery meeting that the bridge will host. Session was informed that coffee sales need to be encouraged to support coffee availability on Sunday. Harry Adams and Wanda are investigating option to charge for coffee purchases. Worship and Outreach are working together on events where we can show bridge love: Easter Egg hunt with Worship team and Hope House Luncheon with Missions team. Hospitality would like to have an additional sign/sandwich board. The team will review its budget for purchase.

Prayer and Care: Marilyn Vernon presented an update on the Power of Prayer Project.
A Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop was held Feb. 1 in New Bern, NC and was attended by Marilyn, Ethel Adams, Mary Ellen Cole and Arleen Godshall.

Small Groups**:** Julie Shackleton: There are 7 facilitators for the Sermon Based Small Groups, which will begin the first week of March. Four will be using the church and 3 will be in homes. Doug will be holding a training/information meeting for the facilitators on February 11th@ 1pm in the session room.

Worship**:**: Fran made a motion to move forward with a dramatic presentation *The Gospel According to Mark* to be held at the bridge on Friday April 17 with tickets to cost $10. Unanimous approval

The next regular session meeting will take place March 4 at 4PM.

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Dr. Doug Invites You to Get Involved in The North Carolina Rice Festival

Last Day to Purchase Tickets is Sunday, March 1st

Friends, I currently serve on the board of directors of the NC Rice Festival. Along with covenant partner, Arlene Holmes and other Leland-area citizens, we are trying to create an annual festival in northern Brunswick Co. I would like to invite you to join us at our first-ever gala on Friday, March 6th at the Leland Cultural Arts Center. You can purchase tickets to the gala for $100 per person or become a part of the Patron Circle. Please see me if you are interested. Below find some additional info about the Rice Festival.

Many residents of this community are unaware of the significance of rice production in the history of the coastal counties of southeastern North Carolina and the connection between this area and the Rice Coast of Africa, especially Sierra Leone. For example, many are unaware that in 1860, Brunswick County produced 6.7 million pounds of rice or about 90 percent of the state's total rice production. Additionally, Brunswick County form the most northern section of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, a federally recognized cultural grouping. The NC Rice Festival Board along with the Leland Tourism Development Authority have come together to tell the story of the rice growing culture of this region.

The inaugural event of the new North Carolina Rice Festival will be held on March 6, 2020 with a VIP Reception & Dinner Gala. An expansive, education-filled, family-friendly portion of the Rice Festival is scheduled for March 2021. Several other educational events are scheduled between the March 2020 Dinner Gala and the March 2021 Festival.

The North Carolina Rice Festival has two main objectives: 1) to educate Festival attendees about the rich history of rice production in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties; and 2) to create a family-friendly and fun destination event in northern Brunswick County. As a Patron Circle Member, you will play a vital role in the achievement of these objectives.

The cost of a Patron Circle Membership for the 2020 VIP Gala is $500 and comes with the following benefits:

- 2 Tickets to the pre-Gala VIP Reception featuring;
- 2 Tickets to the seated Gala dinner prepared by 2 celebrity chefs;
- Recognition in the Gala Program;
- Video and podium recognition at the Gala dinner;
- Recognition as a Founding Member of Patron's Circle of the North Carolina Rice Festival; and first choice for sponsorship of the 2021 NC Rice Festival.

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Dr. Doug Invites You to Sunday Gospel Brunch

Last Day to Purchase Tickets is Sunday, March 1st

Friends, I serve on the board of directors of Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation. One of the primary projects of the CH/WBHF is the restoration of Reaves Chapel in Navassa. The historic Reaves Chapel A.M.E. Church is one of the Cape Fear regions' most culturally and historically significant African American structures and is one of the oldest African American buildings in southeastern North Carolina. It was built shortly after the Civil War on the bluffs of the Cape Fear River by enslaved people of the Cedar Hill Plantation. In 1911 it was moved inland by the congregation, using logs and a team of oxen to its current location, a parcel then owned by Edward Reaves, a formerly enslaved man for whom the Chapel was named.

On Sunday March 8, 2020 there will be gospel brunch fundraiser with proceeds going toward the renovation of the Reaves Chapel. The brunch will include live entertainment and brunch catered by celebrity chief, Keith Rhodes. This is a perfect post-worship lunch for folks at the bridge. Please join me for a great meal for a great cause. Doors open at 1:00pm. Tickets are available through Dr. Doug.

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

CEDAR HILL/WESTBANK HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS A GOSPEL BRUNCH

Sunday

MARCH 8, 2020

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00PM

JOIN US FOR LIVE GOSPEL ENTERTAINMENT AND BRUNCH CATERED BY CELEBRITY CHEF KEITH RHODES. PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE REEVES CHAPEL RESTORATION PROJECT. EVENT PRICE $50.00

Tickets Avalable at The Following Locations:

Tommy's Mini Mart 3280 Mt. Misery Road Leland, NC 28401 (910) 383-1252

Phoenix Mart 2507 Cedar Hill Road Leland, NC 28401 (910) 399-5708

Contact Us:

Facebook: cedarhill_westbank

Instagram: cedarhill_westbank